TIM STELLER
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Flu shot said to be only 36 percent effective

Vaccine performs even worse against dreaded H3N2 virus

By Mike Stobbe
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The flu vaccine is doing a poor job protecting older Americans and others against the bug that's causing most illnesses.

Preliminary figures released Thursday suggest the vaccine is 36 percent effective overall in preventing flu illness severe enough to send a patient to the doctor's office.

There's only been one other time in the last decade when the flu vaccine did a worse job.

Most illnesses this winter have been caused by a nasty kind of flu called Type A H3N2. The vaccine was only 25 percent effective against that type.

This kind of virus tends to cause more suffering and has been responsible for the worst recent flu seasons. But experts have wondered whether low vaccine effectiveness is another reason for the surprisingly severe season hitting the United States this winter.

Based on these numbers, the answer is yes.

"The fact that the vaccine doesn't work as well as we would like is clearly a contributing factor," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert.

The estimates were published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

See VACCINE, A4

Much-needed rain hits Tucson

MAMTA POPAT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A man walks down Sixth Avenue as a light rain comes down Thursday morning. Among the places in the Tucson area that benefited from the downfall was Sabino Creek. The rain allowed the creek to end a string of 153 no-flow days. **Story, Page A2**.

Senators unable to cut a deal on DACA

Lawmakers reject 2 proposals on immigration, border wall

By Alan Fram and Kevin Freking
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Senate rejected both a bipartisan immigration plan and a more restrictive proposal by President Trump on Thursday, suggesting the latest election-year debate on an issue that fires up both parties' voters will produce a familiar outcome: stalemate.

Facing a White House veto threat and opposition from the Senate's GOP leaders, the chamber derailed a plan by bipartisan senators that would have helped 1.8 million young immigrant "dreamers" achieve citizenship. It also would have doled out $25 billion for Trump's coveted wall with Mexico and for other border security measures, but it didn't go as far as Trump wanted in curbing legal immigration.

The bipartisan measure failed 54-45, six votes short of the 60 needed for passage. That scuttled what had seemed the likeliest chance for sweeping immigration legislation to make it through the Senate this year.

Trump's own plan fared even worse as 60 senators voted no and just 39 voted for it — 21 shy of the 60 needed. The embarrassing outcome for the president underscored the feelings of Republicans concerned about election damage in swing states with high numbers of Hispanic voters.

Top Democrats had held out faint hopes that the bipartisan package would prevail,

See NO DEAL, A4

2 cops disciplined for actions during immigration protest

By Shaq Davis
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Two Tucson police officers are facing discipline for their actions during an immigration rights protest downtown last year that turned violent, the department said Thursday in announcing the findings from reviews of that incident and another one in which a motorcyclist was killed during a police chase.

The reports released Thursday are from the department's new Critical Incident Review Board, which has been tasked to look into what Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus called "sentinel events" for the department. These are incidents, he said, such as shootings involving officers, police chases that end in injury or death, or other events that could result in the community losing confidence in the department.

In addition to the protest review, the 16-member board also found that two officers involved in the motorcycle chase violated department rules but that the cause of the accident was the motorcyclist's attempt to flee from police and not from officers' violations of department policies.

Magnus said by reviewing the incidents in a detailed manner

See INCIDENTS, A4

MAMTA POPAT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus.

Warning signs abundant before Florida rampage

By Kelli Kennedy
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARKLAND, Fla. — Months before authorities say Nikolas Cruz walked into his former high school and slaughtered 17 people, the troubled teen began showing warning signs he was bent on violence.

"Im going to be a professional school shooter," a YouTube user with the screen name "Nikolas Cruz" posted in September.

The 19-year-old was expelled last year from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School for undisclosed disciplinary reasons. And less than a year ago, the former Junior ROTC cadet bought a military-style AR-15 rifle.

As investigators tried to establish a motive for Wednesday's shooting rampage, students and neighbors portrayed Cruz as an often strange and hostile figure who threatened others, talked about killing animals and posed with guns in disturbing photos on social media.

"I think everyone had in their minds if anybody was going to do it, it was going to be him," 17-year-old Dakota Mutchler said after Cruz was identified as the alleged

See SHOOTING, A4

Trump cites mental health — not guns — in speech on shooting / **A13**
A look at some of the victims at Stoneman Douglas High School / **A13**

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IN DEMAND: Home builders applaud the relaunch of a program that teaches construction skills.

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